

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A surgical needle which comprises:  
a base portion having a root diameter; and  
a tapered end portion extending from said base portion to a pointed end,  
5 the tapered end portion defining at least a first and second region, wherein the first region  
having an average taper ratio of approximately 2.76:1 and the second region having an  
average taper ratio of approximately 5.65:1.
2. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein the first region  
incorporates a length which is approximately 1/5 of the overall length of the tapered end  
10 portion.